Preparing for a Move to New Facilities:  
Frequently Asked Questions  
& Answers

Transition Team Update on School Survey  
November 2011
Background

The Transition Team distributed an all-school survey in October 2011 to gather feedback from the dental school community as the school moves forward with planning for a future move to a new location in San Francisco’s South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood.

The survey asked students, faculty and staff three questions:

1) Leaving 2155 Webster Street — What are your questions or concerns about preparing to move to the new facilities?
2) New Facility and Neighborhood — What are your questions or concerns about the new building?
3) What should the school do over the next two years to best prepare for a move?

The survey responses totaled approximately 70 comments and questions. Many people’s questions were on similar topics, so this document is designed to address these all at once. The cross-departmental Transition Team is charged with helping the school prepare for the logistics of a future move; it is not responsible for the specifics of building design and layout. However, the survey responses and feedback were sent to sub-committees responsible for areas including learning environments, offices/administration, research, clinical spaces and experiential spaces.

While a potential move is still at least two years away, the Transition Team invites the school community to continue to offer input and ask questions about how the school can best prepare for the logistics of a future move. For more information, or if you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Richard Fredekind, chair of the Transition Team, at rfredekind@pacific.edu.

Since building plans are still not yet finalized, please keep in mind that any specifics about building layouts may change as the process moves forward. For the latest details, please visit http://dental.pacific.edu/plans and click the “Community Updates” box.

Common Questions & Topics

Transportation Options to the South of Market (SoMa) Neighborhood

- 155 Fifth Street is located one and a half blocks from the Powell Street BART/Muni Station, and is serviced by multiple Muni bus lines. The building is located 2 ½ blocks from Highway 280 and provides easy access to the Bay Bridge and Highway 101.

- For those who bike, there will be bike parking and showers available in the building.

- To view a trip planner of Bay Area public transportation available to the 155 Fifth Street location, visit http://511.org.

- To find out more about San Francisco Muni public transportation options to the 155 Fifth Street location, visit http://www.sfmta.com.
Parking

- The new building is located next to the city’s largest public parking garage at 5th and Mission streets (2,585 parking spaces). There is other parking available in the neighborhood, including street lots and other parking garages.

- Details about parking options within the dental school building or in nearby parking garages are not yet known. There is limited underground parking in the 155 Fifth Street building but final plans are not yet complete.

- It is unknown at this time if the school will try to negotiate rates or specialty contracts with nearby parking garages.

- More details about the Fifth and Mission Parking Garage are available at http://www.fifthandmission.com/

Neighborhood Safety

- The school will work closely with its Department of Public Safety to provide appropriate security at the new school building for the benefit of students, employees, patients and visitors. The public safety team will work on areas such as building security, lighting and other aspects of a secure campus.

- The public safety team has already begun to evaluate the SoMa neighborhood to determine best practices in getting to and from the dental school. The team realizes that people may be concerned with neighborhood safety after night clinics, and will work to develop policies and procedures to best serve the safety of the school community. A question was asked about the possibility of a shuttle or escort service, but it is unknown at this time if the school will offer those types of services.

- Unlike the 2155 Webster Street building, a special entrance is planned for patients that will be separate from the entrance used by for students, faculty and staff.

- New developments in the SoMa neighborhood, including the dental school’s relocation, will bring more people to SoMa and contribute to the overall betterment of the Fifth Street corridor and surrounding areas. There are many other renovation projects currently taking place or planned in SoMa including the renovation of the Metreon, the Old Mint and SFMOMA, as well as the construction of the Transbay terminal. In addition, directly across from the school’s future location on Fifth Street is the 5M Project, a four-acre multi-phase, mixed-use development project between Fifth, Mission, and Howard Streets. Over the next decade, the 5M site will become a mix of low-, mid-, and high-rise buildings for office use, housing, public spaces and a range of flexible community venues. All of these changes are expected to bring more people to the SoMa neighborhood and contribute to the overall betterment of the neighborhood.
• The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District was approved by district property owners in 2008 to improve the quality of life in the area. Its mission is to provide programs that foster a safer and more secure community, create a cleaner and greener neighborhood, and reinforce the viability of the area’s economic base. It began implementing initiatives in 2009 including the Community Guides program, 10B police officer program, graffiti removal, street and sidewalk cleaning, marketing and other improvement efforts. For more information about the major businesses and organizations in the area that are involved in neighborhood safety improvement issues, visit the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District’s website at http://www.ybcbd.org.

• For more information about the neighborhood, visit: http://www.sfgate.com/neighborhoods/sf/soma/

Student Housing

• The school is monitoring new developments in the neighborhood and analyzing whether they might be a fit for future student housing.

• Kathy Candito, director of Admissions and Associate Dean for Student Services, is spearheading a group examining housing options for students. Her team will share more details about options and plans as they are developed.

Building Design — Offices, Layout, Storage, Interiors and More

• Specifics about desk space in the research labs will be addressed by the Programming/Design Committee and the Research sub-committee working on those aspects of the building plans.

• The Programming/Design Committee has been working with the architects to explore whether it is possible for the rooftop to be used by the school community. More details will be shared once that is determined.

• Specific details about offices, desk space and floor plans are still under development. Questions about sensitive documents, privacy, storage and other aspects of office environment will be addressed as more details are known.

• Input and ideas about color palate, décor, office furniture, interior design, building temperature and related questions should be directed to the Offices/Administration sub-committee of the Programming/Design Committee. These types of questions will get answered as the project moves forward.

• The library will be delivered through electronic means, not through a dedicated library space in the building. More details will be shared from others working on library services as the move gets closer. The IT Department will work to provide school computers and other IT services that will be needed for use in the building.
Planning for the Move — Impact on Staff / Employment

- There are no plans to have employees take unpaid time off during the move.

- There are no plans to reduce or eliminate staff as part of the move. Job descriptions for certain positions may change to better fit the workforce needs in the new building.

- There may be additional employment opportunities for staff and faculty as part of the change to the clinic model to incorporate eight group practices.

- It is anticipated that the existing building operations in the current location at 2155 Webster Street will continue until the move-in process begins.

Planning for the Move – Questions About Preparing Resources, Supplies, Cleaning Out Existing Spaces, Document Archiving, etc.

- The Transition Team will work with the Department of Building Operations and other departments to plan how to discard, recycle or donate unnecessary items. More information about resources will be shared as we move forward in this process.

- If you have questions about cleaning out existing spaces at 2155 Webster Street, or comments about items stored in the building, please contact Neil Kingston, Director of Building Operations.

- Information about scanning and archiving documents will be provided at a later date. The Transition Team will work with the Information Technology Department and other departments to coordinate scanning resources over the coming months and years, but specific details are not available at this time.

Other — Questions About Neighborhood Amenities, Farmers Market, Location, etc.)

- The school does plan to have a full-service café in the new building. There are also numerous dining options in the area, including approximately 100 restaurants within a 10-minute walk from the new location, as well as cafés and restaurants at the Westfield San Francisco Centre on Mission Street.

- As construction moves forward and the school gets closer to moving, it is anticipated that there will be opportunities to visit the school and acclimate to the neighborhood in advance.

- The University of the Pacific’s Board of Regents has approved the project and the University has committed funding to make the project a reality. The dental school’s Pacific Dugoni Foundation will also be a key component in funding the
project and is currently organizing a capital fundraising campaign to support the project.

- There is currently a seasonal farmers market nearby on Fifth Street between Mission and Market Streets in the Mint Plaza. However, we do not know at this time whether there will be a farmer’s market specific to the dental school.

- This building’s location offers close proximity to Yerba Buena Gardens and a host of hotel, retail, office and residential areas providing a variety of amenities. For more information about the neighborhood, visit http://www.sfgate.com/neighborhoods/sf/soma/

- The dental school will remain committed to maintaining its current building at 2155 Webster Street until we move to the new building. Technology upgrades are being planned for implementation in the next couple of years. The curriculum will remain contemporary and robust as we continue to prepare the classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014 for a career in dentistry.

Clinic Operations

- Drawings of the proposed clinical spaces are posted in Richard Fredekind’s office as they become available. If there is not a meeting in his office, you are welcome to go in and look at the floor plans, then send him an email with your thoughts. If the office door is locked, you can see Debbie Keatley to let you in. It has been suggested that this is the best method for visualizing what spaces will look like.

  Pediatric Clinic

- All clinics have special instruments and supplies unique to their area, including the Pediatric Clinic. There will be adequate storage for necessary materials in all clinics. Accommodations are being planned for managing noise levels in the reception and treatment areas. There will also be consult rooms in all clinic areas. As for every individual operatory, the chair of the Pediatric Dentistry Department will be involved in the design and functionality of each unit.

  Main Clinic Operations, Storage, etc.

- Storage spaces where clinic staff may keep their personal items will be made available in locations as convenient as possible.

- The Professional Services Laboratory will be located on the second floor. Treatment support labs (wet labs) will be located within the practices on the second and third floor. Student lockers will be located on both the second and third floors, depending on where your practice will be located. See the floor plans in Richard Fredekind’s office for exact locations.

- For questions about dispensaries and central sterilization, Eve Cuny and Farzy Baniaamam Ghajar will be involved in determining how the dispensaries and central sterilization are situated, their size and shape, and how work will flow in and around them.
• It is not expected that faculty will have to cover clinic areas on different floors. We expect that the faculty-student ratio will be adequate in the new building and will be working toward that goal in the next couple of years. We also believe that the need for consults should be reduced as cross training is incorporated, again over the next couple of years.

• Currently, there are no plans for a dedicated clinical research facility. Clinical research will be incorporated into the current planned spaces.

Specialty Clinics
• It is expected that most surgeries will occur in the Surgical Suite. Certain simple surgical procedures (e.g. uncomplicated extractions) will be done in the generalist clinic.

• Whenever possible, clinical operations will be located in convenient proximity to related services. Proper expertise will be used in determining sterilization and dispensing requirements.

Some of the survey responses and comments about specific design plans are more appropriately handled by the Programming/Design subcommittees working on the areas of clinical spaces, learning environments, research, experiential spaces and offices/administration. Questions have been forwarded to these sub-committees for review.